

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05354 040729Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/046 W

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R 031455Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5487

INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

COMMANDANT, US COAST GUARD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, SA, EWWT

REF: (A) USREP JECOR 0669 JUL 14 76 (DTG 141800Z JUL 76),
(B) JIDDA 3666 (C), STATE 23485, (D) STATE 8632

1. COMMANDER OF THE SAUDI COAST GUARD AND FRONTIER FORCES
GENERAL ABDAR RAHMAN AL ASH-SHAYKH HAS WRITTEN TO THE
AMBASSADOR REQUESTING THAT THE US COAST GUARD UNDERTAKE
THE SURVEY OF THE SAUDI COAST GUARD OUTLINED IN THE PRE-
SURVEY CONDUCTED BY CAPT. STEPHANY IN 1975 (REF D). IN
HIS LETTER HE REQUESTS THAT WE PERFORM THE SURVEY AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. GENERAL AL ASH-SHAYKH HAS PROPOSED THAT THE PAYMENT FOR
THE SURVEY BE MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE UTILIZING
THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TRUST FUND. THIS METHOD OF
PAYMENT MAY HAVE BEEN PROPOSED AS A RESULT OF CONFUSION
WITHIN THE BUREAUCRACY SUPPORTING THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
FOLLOWING CABINET APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT IN THAT THEY
MISUNDERSTOOD THE SURVEY TO BE OF THE SAUDI COASTS RATHER
THAN THE COAST GUARD. WE HAVE ASCERTAINED FROM GENERAL
AL ASH-SHAYKH THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING IN THIS
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PAGE 02 JIDDA 05354 040729Z

REGARD AS FAR AS HE IS CONCERNED. WHILE THE METHOD OF

PAYMENT IS UNUSUAL IN TERMS OF OUR PREVIOUS DEALINGS WITH THE SAUDI MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO IT AND ANY ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE DIRECT PAYMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO THE US COAST GUARD WOULD PROBABLY ENTAIL FURTHER DELAYS. SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION COORDINATOR DR. AL TURKI HAS APPROVED PAYMENT USING THE JECOR TRUST FUND (REF A). WE ENVISION NO FURTHER JECOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE SURVEY.

3. IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN A YEAR SINCE WE FIRST PROPOSED THE SURVEY OF THE SAUDI COAST GUARD. THE DELAY IN GETTING THE PROGRAM UNDERWAY HAS BEEN ON THE SAUDI SIDE. THE RESPONSE OF THE USCG HAS BEEN PROMPT AND POSITIVE, FOR WHICH WE ARE APPRECIATIVE. WE WOULD NONETHELESS HOPE THAT WE CAN ACCEDE TO THE BELATED SAUDI REQUEST FOR AN EARLY ASSEMBLY OF THE SURVEY TEAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO PUT TOGETHER A TEAM OF THE HIGH QUALITY PROPOSED BY THE USCG. MOREOVER, EVEN IF THE TEAM COULD BE PUT TOGETHER IMMEDIATELY WE SEE LITTLE UTILITY IN THEIR ARRIVING BEFORE OR DURING RAMADAN (AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 24) OR DURING THE POST-RAMADAN HOLIDAY WHICH WILL LAST UNTIL ABOUT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. OCTOBER TWO STRIKES US AS THE BEST TIME TO BEGIN THE SURVEY.

IF THE TEAM COULD ARRIVE THEN IT MIGHT BE ABLE TO FINISH THE JOB AND BE HOME IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS. WOULD APPRECIATE AS EARLY A RESPONSE AS POSSIBLE.
PORTER

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